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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08144.0004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Marcos de Albuquerque
CONTRUCCI et al.

Application No.: 09/892,654

Filed: June 28, 2001

For: EQUIPMENT FOR DISTRIBUTION AND
FEEDING OF CHARGE AND FUEL IN
SHAFT FURNACES OF RECTANGULAR
CROSS SECTION

Group Art Unit: 1742

Examiner: M. Andrews

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In reply to the Office Action dated August 28, 2002, the period for reply having been extended for three (3) months by a request for extension and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 12, and 17 and cancel claims 2-6 and 16 as follows:

1. Apparatus for introducing and distributing a charge including a metal oxide and solid fuel to a shaft furnace having a rectangular interior cross section for the production of molten metal from said metal oxide comprising:

means for conveying said charge to said shaft furnace;

means for distributing said charge from said conveying means to said shaft furnace to form in said interior cross section of said shaft furnace a vertical column

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com